

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 6, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus comprising:
a transparent plate for supporting an original thereon;
a support member for supporting an end portion ~~of a surface~~ of the transparent plate at a surface of the transparent plate opposite to the original; and
a movable image reading unit for reading image information of the original, the image reading unit including an image sensor for reading image information of the original and a regulating member for regulating a distance between the image sensor and the transparent plate, wherein the regulating member slides on the surface of the transparent plate opposite to the original when the image reading unit moves,
wherein ~~a moving direction end of~~ the support member is provided with a cutout in a moving direction of said movable image reading unit so ~~the sliding of~~ the regulating member slides with respect to the transparent plate ~~is not prevented~~ when the image reading unit moves to the end portion of the transparent plate.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the regulating member is provided outside a readable region of the image sensor in a direction perpendicular to a moving direction of the image reading unit.

5. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the transparent plate is provided with a glass sheet on which the original is to be rested, and wherein the support member supports an end portion of the glass sheet.

6. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
a transparent plate for supporting an original thereon;
a support member for supporting an end portion ~~of a surface~~ of the transparent plate at a surface of the transparent plate opposite to the original; ~~and~~
a movable image reading unit for reading image information of the original, the image reading unit including an image sensor for reading image information of the original and a regulating member for regulating a distance between the image sensor and the transparent plate, wherein the regulating member slides on the surface of the transparent plate opposite to the original when the image reading unit moves~~[[,]]~~; and a recording portion,

wherein ~~a moving direction end of~~ the support member is provided with a cutout in a moving direction of said movable image reading unit so ~~the sliding of~~ the regulating member slides with respect to the transparent plate ~~is not prevented~~ when the image reading unit moves to the end portion of the transparent plate.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the regulating member is provided outside a readable region of the image sensor in a direction perpendicular to a moving direction of the image reading unit.

10. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the transparent plate is provided with a glass sheet on which the original is to be rested, and wherein the support member supports an end portion of the glass sheet.

11. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the transparent plate is a flow reading glass sheet, and the image sensor reads image information of the original while the original is moved in contact with the transparent plate.

12. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the transparent plate is a flow reading glass sheet, and the image sensor reads image information of the original while the original is moved in contact with the transparent plate.